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1994/03/04

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ACTION SS-00

INFO LOG-00 OASY-00 ANHR-01 TEDE-00 ADS-00 /001W
-----2C0304 041240Z /38

O 041240Z MAR 94
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6246
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI
AMCONSUL SHENYANG
AMCONSUL CHENGDU

SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIJING 006705

DEPT. PLEASE PASS TO ROSS WILSON WITH THE SECRETARY'S
PARTY

DEPT ALSO FOR EAP/CM, HA AND PA; HONG KONG FOR A/S
SHATTUCK

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PREL, OPRC, CH
SUBJECT: DETENTION OF WEI JINGSHENG AND OTHER DISSIDENTS

REF: (A) STATE 54331, (B) FBIS HK0403030894

1. ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY. NOTED DISSIDENT WEI JINGSHENG WAS PICKED UP

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BY THE POLICE THE NIGHT OF MARCH 3/EARLY ON MARCH 4.
ACTIVIST WANG DAN WAS REPORTEDLY ALSO DETAINED BRIEFLY AND
HAS SINCE BEEN RELEASED.

CONTAINED IN PARA. 9. END SUMMARY.

3. POLOFF ARRIVED AT A PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED MEETING ON
MARCH 4 TO BE TOLD
THAT WEI HAD BEEN PICKED UP BY THE POLICE THE
NIGHT OF MARCH 3/MORNING OF MARCH 4

IS/FPC/CDR TRB Date: 1/9/97

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|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| DEPARTMENT OF STATE | DECLASSIFY | EO Citations | TS authority |
| | DECLASSIFY IN PART | | |
| () RELEASE | () EXCISE | () DENY | |

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WANG DAN WAS ALSO PICKED UP FOR QUESTIONING BUT HAD ALREADY BEEN RELEASED.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE DETENTION OF ZHOU GUOQIANG, QIAN YUMIN, WANG JIAQI, AND YUAN HONGBING NOTED IN REF A, WE ALSO HAVE PRESS REPORTS THAT LI HAI, ANOTHER SIGNATORY OF THE "PEACE CHARTER" IN BEIJING, AND SHANGHAI ACTIVIST BAO GE HAVE ALSO BEEN PICKED UP. SEPTTEL REPORTS MFA CONFIRMATION THAT ZHOU, WANG, AND YUAN WERE DETAINED.

5. COMMENT: WEI (AND WANG DAN) ARE THE BEST-KNOWN

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DISSIDENTS DETAINED IN THIS RECENT GROUP. ALL OF THOSE DETAINED SO FAR HAVE BEEN NOTICEABLY ACTIVE, SIGNING PETITIONS AND TALKING TO JOURNALISTS. ACCORDING TO REF B REPORT FROM ZHONGGUO TONGXUN BAO, ZHOU GUOQIANG MAY BE CHARGED WITH "COLLUDING WITH HOSTILE FORCES OUTSIDE CHINA;" SOME OTHERS MAY ALSO FACE CRIMINAL CHARGES. THE REMAINING CASES MAY BE A PREVENTIVE--AND TEMPORARY--MEASURE CONNECTED WITH THE MARCH 8 OPENING OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS (NPC). LAST YEAR, WANG DAN WAS SENT ON AN INVOLUNTARY "VACATION" DURING THE NPC. THE NPC SESSION OPENS A SENSITIVE POLITICAL "SEASON" IN CHINA, CULMINATING IN THE JUNE 4 ANNIVERSARY OF TIANANMEN.

6. IN WEI'S CASE, HIS RECENT PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HIS MEETING WITH A/S SHATTUCK MAY HAVE LED TO HIS DETENTION,

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8. NOTE: ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS JOHN SHATTUCK ISSUED A STATEMENT IN SHANGHAI MID-FRIDAY DEPLORING THE REPORTS OF THE

DETENTIONS OF FOUR DISSIDENTS, INCLUDING ZHOU GUOQIANG. HE SAID, "I AM DISTURBED TO LEARN OF NEW REPORTS OF DETENTIONS IN CHINA. I AGAIN CALL ON THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED SOLELY FOR THE PEACEFUL EXPRESSION OF THEIR VIEWS." MR. SHATTUCK IS ON HIS WAY TO HONG KONG, WHERE THE PRESS WILL SEEK HIM OUT TO COMMENT ON THE DETENTION OF WEI JINGSHENG. GIVEN THE TIME DIFFERENCES, A/S SHATTUCK MAY WELL ISSUE ANOTHER STATEMENT ABOUT WEI JINGSHENG BEFORE THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S NOON BRIEFING.

9. SUGGESTED PRESS GUIDANCE

QUESTION: WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO THE LATEST REPORTS OF

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DETENTIONS OF DISSIDENTS, INCLUDING WEI JINGSHENG?

ANSWER:

--WE DEPLORE THE DETENTION OF ALL THOSE WHO ARE BEING HELD

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SOLELY FOR THE PEACEFUL EXPRESSION OF THEIR VIEWS, AND
CALL ON THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE THESE
INDIVIDUALS IMMEDIATELY.

QUESTION: HAS THE EMBASSY FILED A FORMAL PROTEST?

ANSWER:

--THE EMBASSY EXPRESSED CONCERN TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT
OVER THE DETENTIONS OF DISSIDENTS ZHOU GUOQIANG, QIAN
YUMIN, WANG JIAQI, AND YUAN HONGBING.

QUESTION: HOW WILL THIS AFFECT THE VISIT OF SECRETARY
CHRISTOPHER TO CHINA LATER THIS MONTH?

ANSWER:

--WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO ENGAGE
THE CHINESE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS ON THE ISSUES OF CONCERN
TO US IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. SECRETARY
CHRISTOPHER WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO STRONGLY EXPRESS
TO THE SENIOR CHINESE LEADERSHIP OUR VERY DEEP CONCERNS
ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHINA, INCLUDING THE
LATEST DETENTIONS.

QUESTION: HOW WILL THESE LATEST DETENTIONS AFFECT THE
UPCOMING DECISION ON EXTENSION OF MFN?

ANSWER:

--WE HAVE SAID BEFORE THAT THE CHINESE HAVE NOT YET TAKEN
THE STEPS NECESSARY FOR THE SECRETARY TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A

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POSITIVE DECISION. THE LATEST NEWS OF MORE DETENTIONS IS
A RETROGRESSION. SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER MUST MAKE HIS
RECOMMENDATION TO THE PRESIDENT AT THE END OF MAY. DURING
HIS MEETINGS WITH CHINESE LEADERS, SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER
WILL PERSONALLY URGE THAT CHINA TAKE EARLY AND POSITIVE
STEPS AS OUTLINED IN THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER.
ROY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification ***